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MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION



THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL COPY OF THE LAWS OR REGULATIONS. THIS EXPLANATION OF THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IS CORRECT AS OF THE DATE SPECIFIED. BEFORE TAKING PART IN THIS FISHERY PLEASE CALL 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM](http://WWW.OUTDOORALABAMA.COM) FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMANS RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME

## RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING REGULATIONS

### Recreational Shrimping:

**Definition:** The taking or attempting to take shrimp for bait or non-commercial purposes by use of a trawl **16' or less as measured along the main top line.**

### License:

**A \$16.00 boat license is required.** (Non-residents pay the same fee as that charged Alabama residents to conduct the same activity in the applicant's state of residence except Mississippi pays the same as Alabama residents).

### Season:

Set by regulation. Prohibited in permanently closed areas. Allowed only in areas open to commercial shrimping and areas designated by law as exclusive saltwater bait areas.

### Legal Size:

No restrictions.

### Gallons Allowed:

In areas open to commercial shrimping, 5 gallons of shrimp with heads on per person per day. In exclusive saltwater bait areas, 1 gallon of shrimp with heads on **per boat** per day. Licensed recreational shrimp boats taking **crabs** in waters open to commercial shrimping are limited to **no more than one 5-gallon container of legal size crabs in possession per boat.**

### Trawl Size:

Not to exceed 16 feet as measured along the main top line.

### Mesh Size:

No restrictions.

### Other:

It is unlawful for any person to drag any net, seine, or trawl over public or private oyster reefs. Commercially licensed boats cannot shrimp in exclusive bait areas. It is unlawful to retain a redfish or speckled trout caught with a trawl. It is unlawful to discard dead fish or other dead seafoods within 500 feet of any shoreline or into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within 3 miles of the Gulf beaches (including Pelican Bay). The use of any trawl (s) is prohibited in waters closed to shrimping. **Little Lagoon** is closed to all shrimp trawls which exceed sixteen feet as measured across the cork line or top main line (Rule 220-3-.64).

The use of any trawl or trawls, or the taking of shrimp by any means, in any area closed to commercial shrimping is hereby expressly prohibited.

## **PERMANENTLY CLOSED AREAS (SHRIMP TAKEN BY ANY METHOD SHALL NOT BE RETAINED)**

1. All rivers \*, streams, bayous and creeks within the State (except Bayou St. John, Old River in Baldwin County and that portion of Blakely River designated by law as an exclusive bait shrimp area). \* The mouth of the **Mobile River** is defined as a line running from the southernmost point of Pinto Island due west to a point on the mainland. The mouth of the **Blakely River** is defined as a line running westward from the charted position of the Blakely River channel marker #20 to a point of intersection with land on the southern tip of Big Island.
2. All of Portersville Bay inside a line running from Barron Point west along the south shores of Cat and Marsh Island then west to the south end of Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes) then north along the western shore of Coffee Island to a point on the mainland directly north of the northernmost tip of Coffee Island.
3. Heron Bay and that portion of Mississippi Sound north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and east of a line extending from Barron Point on Mon Louis Island southeasterly to range marker "D" on the Intracoastal Waterway.
4. All of Weeks Bay. (exception: may take shrimp for bait with a 12" X 12" dip net only)
5. Theodore Industrial Canal.
6. Bon Secour Bay within 2500 ft. of the mouth of Weeks Bay.
7. All waters north of the Battleship Parkway.  
  
Note: Indian Bay and Lafitte Bay bottoms (Dauphin Island) are privately owned and may be closed to shrimping.
8. That portion of Mobile Bay north and west of a line running from the intersection of the Dog River Bridge with the Dog River Channel east along the northern edge of the Dog River Channel to its intersection with the Mobile Ship Channel (MSC) then north along the west side of the MSC to the Upper Reach Rear Range (located on the north side of the Arlington Channel) then north and east of a line running southeast to the charted position of MSC marker #78 then southeast to the charted position of Blakely River Channel marker #2 then eastward to the Geodetic Survey in the center of Mayday Pier (30°35.966 - 87°54.851) then eastward along the center of the Mayday Pier to its intersection with land. There shall be a 300 foot safety buffer along the western edge of the MSC where towing a trawl shall be allowed for turning by vessels. **(exception: One gallon of shrimp per person / per day is allowed for bait or non-commercial purposes with a cast net).**
9. That portion of Mobile Bay extending out from and parallel to the shoreline one-half nautical mile beginning at the center of Mayday Pier and then south to the northern edge of the Point Clear Channel. There shall be pilings installed by the Marine Resources Division one-half nautical mile from the shoreline and it shall be illegal to pull a trawl or trawls shoreward of such pilings **(exception: One gallon of shrimp per person / per day is allowed for bait or non-commercial purposes with a cast net).**
10. All waters in Mobile County north of a line beginning at the Mississippi State Line running east to the eastern tip of South Rigolets (30°21.120 - 88°23.490) then northeast to the southwest tip of Point Aux Pins (30°22.271 - 88°18.888) then east to the charted position of the "BC" Beacon in the Bayou la Batre Ship Channel and then southeast to the northwest point of the middle cut that bisects Coffee Island (Isle aux Herbes) defined as 30°20.785 - 88°15.721.
11. North of the Lillian Bridge in Baldwin County.
12. Little Lagoon Pass in Baldwin County.
13. Perdido Pass in Baldwin County which is defined as those waters north of Perdido Pass Channel markers #1 and #2 and south of Perdido Pass Channel markers #8 and #9.

**EXCLUSIVE SALTWATER BAIT AREAS**  
(Areas open only to licensed recreational shrimping and live saltwater bait dealers)  
(Shrimp may only be taken from these exclusive areas from 4:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.)

***Baldwin County***

1. **Wolf Bay:** that area encompassing the water within the boundary from the south shore of Wolf Bay northward to Beacon #86 on the north side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway then westward along the north side of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to Beacon #94 then south across the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway to the south shore of Wolf Bay
2. **Oyster Bay:** that area encompassing the waters of Oyster Bay except those waters north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.
3. **Blakely River:** that area encompassing those waters in the mouth of the Blakely River between the 1-10 bridge and the Highway 90 (old causeway) bridge.
4. **Terry Cove**

***Mobile County***

1. **Arlington Channel**
2. **East Fowl River Channel:** from Beacon 5 and 6 to the mouth of the river .
3. **Bayou La Batre Channel:** from Bayou La Batre Channel B.C. Beacon to the mouth of Bayou La Batre
4. **Dauphin Island Bay**
5. **Buchanan Bay, Confederate Pass, British Bay, Columbia Bay. Colony Bay (Colony Cove), Spanish Bay, Barcelona Bay.**

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**RECREATIONAL TED EXEMPTION:**

No power or mechanical advantage trawl retrieval system allowed on board boat. (all gear must be retrieved by hand).

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**LICENSE PURCHASING**

**NOTE:** Licenses may be purchased by mail. Make check or money order payable to: Marine Resources Division. Mail to License Clerk, Marine Resources Division, P.O. Box 189, Dauphin Island, AL 36528 or P. O. Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547.

Be sure to include boat registration number, **copy of owner's drivers license**, and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

This information sheet has been prepared for general information purposes only. **Shrimping regulations are subject to change.** For information updates and copies of laws/regulations, you may phone the Dauphin Island office at 251-861-2882 or Gulf Shores office at 251-968-7576.

**A 24-hour recorded message may be accessed by calling 251-968-7575.**